

Report for the Year 1909.

TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WORKSOP.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Sixth Annual Report, I have pleasure in stating that the year 1909, judged by the mortality rates, has been one of the healthiest periods the town has ever known.

The net death rate for the year, 13.6, is the lowest of which I can find record, and the infantile mortality rate has, for the first time fallen below 100 per 1,000 births.

The latter rate is probably a truer index of the sanitary condition of a district than the general death rate. It is calculated from the actual number of births for the year, and infant life is known to be very sensitive to the social conditions prevailing, and to insanitary or overcrowded dwellings.

In the last two years we have experienced unusually low infantile death rates, and probably the main factor in bringing this about was the favourable weather experienced, especially the wet and cool summer seasons; but there is reason to think that improved local conditions have played some part in reducing the mortality among children, viz.,

Improved housing,

Better scavenging, and

The work of the Ladies' Health Association.

The cottages erected in recent years are, from a sanitary point of view, much superior to the older type. The interiors are better lighted and ventilated, and, in the majority, separate accommodation for the storing of food apart from the living rooms is provided. Outside, more space is allowed, the yards and passages completely asphalted, and water closets provided in place of midden privies. Under these conditions, the danger to health arising from surface pollution of the ground about the dwellings is greatly reduced.

Since the Scavenging was taken over by the Council, last year, night-soil and house refuse have been removed in a systematic and more efficient manner. The defect in the present system is that ashpits, etc., are, as a rule, only cleared at the request of the occupier, who frequently fails to give notice till the pit is too full. In certain districts in the town, where midden-privies are in use, they ought to be cleared regularly at stated intervals, and receive special attention before the summer months. These accumulations of filth are sources of danger to the inhabitants, being the principal breeding-ground for the hosts of flies that invade the houses and carry infection to food; and, during the process of emptying, the ground becomes polluted, giving rise to infective dust, which is a potent factor in spreading epidemic diarrhœa and other allied complaints among children.

Very good work has been carried on in the town by the Ladies' Health Association, which was established in 1908 with the object of reducing infantile mortality. Some idea of the scope of the work will be gathered from the following extract from the report of the year's work :

“ Upwards of 5,000 visits have been paid during the year, and there are many evidences that the ministrations of the Health Visitor are acceptable to, and much valued by, the mothers. When it is remembered how many young women enter upon the duties of motherhood in ignorance of the ordinary laws of health, and without any clear knowledge concerning the feeding and clothing of infants, it must be granted that the advice of a kind, capable, and experienced woman, cannot fail to be of the greatest service. The Health Visitor encourages the mothers to nurse their babies wherever this is possible. She advises also as to supplementing breast feeding with meals of diluted milk where this is necessary, and endeavours generally to combat the errors, which have been handed down for generations, concerning the feeding, and clothing, and general hygiene of infants and mothers.”

At present the Nurse depends on voluntary information received from midwives and other sources as to the houses where her services are required, and this to a certain extent handicaps her in the work, for, to obtain the best results, the infants ought to come under her care as early as possible.

With the object of assisting the work of this voluntary Association in the district, I think the time has come when the Council ought to adopt the Notification of Births Act. With this in force the Nurse would at once have at command the information she requires, and more benefit would be derived from her efforts.

Notifiable infectious disease was less prevalent than in the previous year.

The town was quite clear of Typhoid Fever, and the cases of Diphtheria were of a sporadic nature.

The same difficulties as in previous years have been experienced with Scarlet Fever, most of the trouble arising from missed cases, from which infection was spread before they could be got under control. Even in the cases notified, it frequently happens that infection has already been spread in the school, or from the home, before the patient can be removed; but under these circumstances, where the contacts are known, they are more easily controlled.

Full use has been made of the Isolation Hospital. The advantages of such treatment, to the patients, are obvious, and are readily accepted by parents, while the educational work of the district is less interfered with than would be the case if these children had to be treated at home.

Epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough occurred in the Spring, necessitating the closing of several schools; indeed, all the school closures in the year were on account of these ailments.

In the case of Notifiable Infectious Disease, where the cases are more under control, it is found possible to protect the schools from serious outbreaks, by excluding known contacts, without resorting to school closure.

The same methods cannot be adopted with Measles, for only a small proportion of the cases are known, and isolation at home is very imperfectly carried out, from the mistaken idea that these complaints are of a trivial nature. In this respect it is interesting to note that in the last six years the deaths from all notifiable infectious diseases were 38, whereas in the same time the deaths from Measles and Whooping Cough numbered 76.

The Zymotic death rate was 1.4 per 1,000, as compared with .8 last year, the increase being mainly due to the deaths from Measles and Whooping Cough.

The deaths from Phthisis numbered 22, and from other Tuberculous Diseases 8.

It will be seen (Table IV.) that the number of deaths from this complaint, which is a preventable disease, was the largest under any single heading. It is estimated that for each death there are six cases of Consumption which have not yet terminated. This

means that in this district there are over 130 cases with active Tuberculosis of the Lungs, and the most of these are possible agents in the spread of the disease to healthy individuals.

The usual inspections have been carried out during the year, details of which will be found below together with the tables of vital statistics of the district for the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T. C. GARRETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Population.—The estimated population of the district at the middle of the year was 19,564, being an increase of 455, or an increase of 2.3 per cent. on the population in 1908.

The natural increase in population for the year, by excess of births over deaths, was 347.

During the year 134 new houses have been certified for occupation by the Surveyor, and at the end of the year there were 34 in course of construction, making in all an increase of 168.

Births.—The number of births registered was 614—314 males and 300 females. The birth rate was 31.3 per 1,000 of the population. The rate was 2 per 1,000 less, and the actual number of births 23 less than the previous year, and 1.7 below the average for 10 years.

The Illegitimate births numbered 40, or 6.5 per cent. of the total. The infantile mortality among illegitimate infants was 150 per 1,000 births, while the rate among legitimate infants was only 95.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered in the district was 277—140 males and 137 females, giving a death rate of 14.1 per 1,000.

Twenty of these were non-residents who died in Public Institutions in the district. These have been distributed to their proper areas, and excluded from the net rate. The deaths of 10 residents, which occurred in other districts, are included, making the net death rate for the year 13.6.

The net death rate in the previous year was 14.4, and the average for the last 10 years 16.7.

Table IV. gives the causes of death at stated ages. Compared with recent years, the figures are low under every heading except Infectious Disease and Tuberculous Disease.

There were 23 deaths from Infectious Disease, viz., 2 from Diphtheria and 1 from Typhoid, while the rest were due to Measles and Whooping Cough.

Deaths from Phthisis, or Consumption, numbered 22, and from other Tuberculous Disease 8, the death rates being 1.1 and .4 per 1,000 respectively.

There were no deaths in infants under 1 year from Tuberculous Disease.

In children under 5 years there were 2 deaths from Phthisis, 2 from Tuberculous Peritonitis, 1 from Tuberculous Meningitis, and 1 from General Tuberculosis.

Since January 1st, 1909, cases of Phthisis occurring in Workhouses, and all cases attended outside by Poor Law Medical Officers, must be notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

The number of notifications received in the year was 14—

13 from Kilton Hill Infirmary, and
1 from the district.

Of the cases notified from the Infirmary, 7 were discharged, after a period of residence, to their own homes.

Five of these were in an advanced stage, and 2 died soon after discharge.

Two made good progress. The disease is now quiescent, and they have both been able to follow outdoor employment since their discharge.

The case notified from the district is improving.

The cases discharged to their homes have been visited. Disinfectants have been supplied and advice given to the patients' attendants as to the control and disinfection of sputum, discharges, soiled linen, etc. Properly constructed "spittoons" ought to be provided for the use of these patients, with simple printed instructions for precautions to be taken to prevent infection of other members of the family.

At present, patients with Consumption are admitted to a separate ward in the Workhouse Infirmary, but in the future they will be treated in a special pavilion, which is now in course of construction, and will accommodate about 12 beds.

Deaths in Public Institutions numbered 59—

Kilton Hill Infirmary	...	55
Victoria Hospital	...	4

Twenty of these were non-residents.

Five Inquests were held during the year, and there were 8 uncertified deaths.

Infantile Mortality.—The number of deaths in Infants under 1 year was 61, and the rate of mortality per 1,000 births was 99.

The rate for the previous year was 113, and the average for the last ten years 161.

There were 7 deaths from Measles and Whooping Cough, 17 from Premature Birth, and 14 from Atrophy, &c., and these, together, constituted over 62 per cent. of the total.

Under all other headings the numbers were much below the average.

Table V. gives particulars of the cause of deaths, and the number at stated ages.

Infectious Disease.—The number of cases of Infectious Disease notified was 113, as compared with 139 in the previous year:—Scarlet Fever 90, Diphtheria 9, Erysipelas 12, Typhoid Fever 1, and Puerperal Fever 1.

Cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in every month, but only at the end of summer did the outbreak assume serious proportions. Soon after the schools opened cases became numerous, and it was found that at least four families in one district had had the disease during the holidays. These children had not been under medical treatment, were not isolated, and from one family children were sent to school, peeling. Valuable assistance has been given by Head Teachers in reporting cases of suspicious illness among children attending their schools, and it is probable that by this means the cases, which were missed in the holidays, would have been discovered in time to prevent mischief, if the schools had been open.

Head Teachers and the School Attendance Officer are informed of all cases of infectious disease notified, and the time for which cases and known contacts ought to be excluded.

Seventy, or over 77 per cent. of the cases were treated in Hospital. There were no return cases in the district, and no deaths from Scarlet Fever during the year.

One fatal case of Typhoid Fever occurred in a rural part of the district. The infection was most likely contracted from home.

Nine cases of Diphtheria were notified, and there were 2 deaths. No secondary cases developed in the houses where the original cases occurred.

The following schools were closed on account of Infectious Disease :—

Shireoaks (Mixed)	-	-	Feb. 26—Mar. 13	-	Measles.
Newcastle Avenue (Infants)	-		Mar. 13—April 3	-	„
St. Mary's (Mixed)	-	-	April 20—May 8	-	„
Crown Street (Infants)	-	-	April 23—May 15	-	„
Scofton (Mixed)	-	-	May 14—June 26	-	Whooping Cough.

The Medical Inspection of Children in the Elementary Schools in the District is carried out by an officer acting under the County Medical Officer of Health.

Zymotic Death Rate.—The deaths from Epidemic Disease numbered 28 :—

Measles ...	...	...	7
Whooping Cough	...	...	13
Diphtheria	...	...	2
Typhoid Fever	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	5

The death rate was 1.4 per 1,000, as compared with .8 in the previous year.

All the deaths except two were in children under 5 years, and the increased rate this year is entirely due to Measles and Whooping Cough.

Cowsheds and Milk Shops.—The premises of 10 Milk Sellers in the town have been inspected regularly, and found in satisfactory condition.

Eighteen Cowsheds in the district have been inspected with regard to air space, ventilation, drainage, &c. All the animals in

these sheds have been examined once a quarter by the Veterinary Surgeon, who advises the owners in eliminating diseased or suspicious animals from the milk supply. To do this efficiently frequent inspection is necessary on account of the frequent importation of new animals to maintain a full supply of milk.

Several complaints have been received of the amount of sediment in the milk from certain sheds, which shows the necessity of exercising more care during the process of milking. Such milk, even when carefully strained, will, under certain conditions of weather, very soon become a dangerous article of diet unless the precaution is taken to boil the milk as soon as it is received.

Factories and Workshops.—At the end of the year there were 59 Workshops on the register. These were inspected, and no serious cause of complaint was found. The number of inspections made was 258. Lists have been received twice in the year from employers employing Home Workers, and the work rooms have been inspected. No case of infectious disease occurred in any of these houses during the year.

Bakehouses.—Two new Bakehouses were erected in the year, making the total number in occupation 17. The yard in front of the new Bakehouse in Cheapside requires paving. In its present condition it is impossible to keep the floor clean during wet weather.

The Sanitary Accommodation in 18 Factories was inspected and found satisfactory, except in three instances. In these the defects have been remedied.

Slaughter Houses.—Twenty-four private slaughter houses in the district have been inspected regularly.

I reported to you the insanitary condition of the premises surrounding the slaughter house in Gateford Road, and made recommendations for improved drainage, and levelling, and paving of the yards.

Serious complaints were made to the Council, in April, of a nuisance caused by the knackery off Gateford Road, where fat-boiling is carried on. In a report to the Council in June I made the following recommendations :

To fill in and level the area in front of the house, where sewage collected.

All trade refuse to be put into closed receptacles, and removed from the building the same day.

To adopt a “closed ” method of boiling in place of the open pans in use.

To convert the large open cesspool into a properly constructed septic tank with a cover.

Complaints were received in July of a nuisance arising from the premises of the Hide & Skin Co., and the adjoining shed where gut-scraping is carried on, in the Cattle Market. These houses were frequently inspected, and, usually, the business is carried on with every reasonable care. Skins are removed at least twice weekly, and they undergo proper treatment when they are received. The nuisance from the other shed was caused by keeping unsound material in the house overnight.

If ordinary precautions are taken, there is no reason why either of these businesses should give rise to a nuisance in the neighbourhood



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FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, & HOMEWORK.

INSPECTIONS.

Factories	76
Workshops	258
Workplaces	...	...	...	12
				Total
				... 346
Written Notices 3.				

DEFECTS FOUND (Nuisances under the Public Health Acts).

Want of Cleanliness	...	...	4
Sanitary Accommodation Insufficient	...	2	
„ „ Unsuitable	...	1	
Number of Defects remedied 7.			

HOME WORK.

Lists received	...	...	9
Outworkers	...	...	14
Inspection of Outworkers' premises	...	28	

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Bakehouses (retail)	...	...	17
Bootmakers	...	...	9
Furniture and Upholstery		...	4
Shoeing Forges	...	...	5
Tailoring, Dressmaking, and Millinery			15
Restaurants and Posting Stables		...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	6
			—
			59

OTHER MATTERS.

Notified by H.M. Inspector	...	3
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	...	3

TO THE WORKSOP URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of Inspector of Nuisances as to Inspections made, Nuisances abated, and Improvements effected during the year 1909.

1. Common Lodging Houses:—				
Number registered	...	...	...	6
Inspections made	...	...	...	90
2. Canal Boats inspected	...	...	...	21
3. Factories and Workshops:—Inspections made	...	...	...	346
4. Bakeries, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Slaughter-houses:—				
Inspections made	...	...	...	595
5. Pigstyes abolished	...	...	...	5
6. Sink Waste-pipes disconnected from drain and made to discharge into the open air	...	...	...	2
7. Overcrowding:—Cases of, abated	...	...	...	1
8. Badly-paved Yards properly paved and channelled	...	...	...	5
9. Public House Urinals repaired and improved	...	...	...	1
10. Minor Nuisances—such as blocked gullies and drains, badly-kept pigstyes, accumulations of manure and rubbish, and defective flushing apparatus to water-closets—attended to and abated	...	...	...	85
11. Midden-privies abolished and water-closets substituted	...	...	...	9
12. Additional privy accomodation provided where previously insufficient	...	...	...	3
13. Privy and ashpit vaults raised to ground-line, and otherwise repaired and improved	...	...	...	6
14. Flushing apparatus provided to W.C. pans, where previously no means of flushing other than carrying and pouring water into the pan	...	...	...	2
15. Rooms fumigated after cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	112
16. Schools fumigated by spraying with Cyllin	...	...	...	1
17. Cowsheds provided with additional light and ventilation	...	...	...	1
18. Wells condemned	...	...	...	1

H. SIMPSON,

Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.

WORKSOP URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous years.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estima- ted to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District	Deaths of Non- Resi- dents regis- tered in Public Institu- tions in the District	Deaths of Resi- dents regis- tered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Num- ber.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.					Num- ber.	Rate.*	Num- ber.	Rate. *
				Num- ber.	Rate per 1000 Births Regis- tered.	Num- ber.	Rate.*							
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1899	15462	484	31.3	113	233	300	19.4	12	3	2	299	19.4		
1900	15830	508	32	89	175	296	18.6	29	16	—	280	17.6		
1901	16207	535	33	78	145	237	14.6	24	6	1	232	14.3		
1902	16592	599	36.1	106	176	304	18.3	37	12	4	296	17.8		
1903	16988	609	35.8	91	149	275	16.1	36	12	3	266	15.6		
1904	17392	583	33.5	104	178	291	16.7	32	11	3	283	16.2		
1905	17807	593	33.3	76	128	258	14.5	38	8	10	260	14.6		
1906	18230	608	33.3	89	146	284	15.5	39	9	10	285	15.6		
1907	18644	534	28.6	94	176	335	17.9	43	13	13	335	17.9		
1908	19109	637	33.3	72	113	270	14.1	46	14	20	276	14.4		
Avrgs. for years 1899- 1908	17226	569	33	91	161	285	16.5	33	10	6	281	16.3		
1909	19564	614	31.3	61	99	277	14.1	59	20	10	267	13.6		

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13, calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

At Census of 1901.

Total population at all ages ... 16,112
Number of inhabited houses ... 3,258
Average number of persons per house ... 4.9

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 17,930.

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
<p>Kilton Hill (Workhouse) Infirmery.</p> <p>Victoria Hospital.</p> <p>Small-Pox Hospital.</p>	<p>(1) The Workop and Blyth and Cuckney Isolation Hospital, Carlton.</p> <p>(2) Notts. County Asylum.</p>	

TABLE III.

WORKSOP URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1909.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of cases removed to Hospital from each locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upw'rds	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)...	9		3	4	2			1
Erysipelas ...	12				1	9	2	
Scarlet Fever...	90		28	53	5	4		70
Enteric Fever ...	1					1		
Puerperal Fever ...	1					1		
Totals ...	113		31	57	8	15	2	71

Isolation Hospital.—Worksop and Blyth and Cuckney Isolation
Hospital, Carlton.

TABLE IV.

WORKSOP URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				All Ages	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	In Public Insti- tutions.
Measles	...	...	...	7	2	3			2		1
Whooping Cough		...	...	13	5	8					
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	...	...	...	2		1			1		
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1					1		
Epidemic Influenza		...	...	3			1		2		
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	5	4	1					
Enteritis	...	...	...	6	3	3					
Gastritis	...	...	...	3					1	2	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...		...	22		2		5	15		3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...		...	8		4	2	1	1		1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...		...	16					11	5	
Bronchitis	...	...	...	14	2	2		1	3	6	8
Pneumonia	...	...	...	14	4	5		1	2	2	1
Other Diseases of the Respiratory Organs	...	...	...	3					2	1	1
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	...		...	1						1	
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	1		1					
Premature Birth	...	...	...	18	17	1					
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	19			1	1	7	10	7
Accidents	...	...	...	5		1	1	1	2		2
Old Age	...	...	...	18						18	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	3	2	1					
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	14					5	9	3
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	...		...	14	14						
All other causes	...	...	...	57	8	10	3	2	21	13	31
All causes				267	61	43	8	12	76	67	59

TABLE V.

WORKSOP URBAN DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1908. Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year
All causes	Certified...	16	6	1	3	26	1	2	4	3	4	2	4	1	3	3	3	56
	Uncertified	4				4											1	5
Measles	...				1	1	1	1				1			1	1		2
Whooping Cough	...																1	5
Diarrhoea, all forms	...								1						1			4
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	...									1								3
Premature Birth	...		3		1	17												17
Congenital Defects	...	13	1			2												3
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	1	2	1	1	9		1	2	1							1	14
Convulsions...	...	5				1											1	2
Bronchitis	...	1															1	2
Pneumonia	...															1		4
Other Causes	...									1					1	1		5
		20	6	1	3	30	1	2	4	3	4	2	4	1	3	3	4	61

Births in the year { Legitimate, 574.
Illegitimate, 40.

Deaths in the year of { Legitimate Infants, 55.
Illegitimate Infants, 6.

Population, estimated to middle of 1909, 19,564.

Deaths from all causes, at all ages, 267.

WORKSOP :

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